THE NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS

January/February 1983

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THE NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1983

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COVER: The Tiburon mariposa lily (*Calochortus tiburonensis*), known only from Ring Mountain, California—a natural area protected under the Conservancy's California Critical Areas Program. Photo by Larry Serpa.

The Nature Conservancy is a national conservation organization committed to the preservation of natural diversity by protecting lands containing the best examples of all components of our natural world.

To date the Conservancy and its members have been responsible for the preservation of 1,887,902 acres of forests, marshes, prairies, mountains, and islands: home to rare and endangered species of wildlife and plants. 2,996 projects have been completed since the acquisition of the first preserve in 1954. Approximately 60% of all preserves are retained by the Conservancy and managed by staff and volunteer land stewards.

A membership, non-profit organization, the Conservancy was incorporated in 1951 in the District of Columbia for scientific and educational purposes.

A copy of the last financial report filed with the Department of State may be obtained by writing to: New York State, Department of State, Office of Charities Registration, Albany, New York 12231, *or* The Nature Conservancy, 1800 North Kent Street, Arlington, Virginia 22209.

President's Letter:
A New Challenge

Launched only two years ago with a $10-million challenge grant from the Goodhill Foundation, the National Critical Areas Conservation Program has already helped protect some 138,000 acres of rapidly vanishing natural systems, from Atlantic maritime forest on the Outer Banks of North Carolina to the tropical rain forests of Hawaii.

All of us in The Nature Conservancy can take pride in this substantial and still-growing achievement of our collaboration with the Goodhill Foundation trustees, Richard H. Pough, John G. Ordway, Jr., and Raymond A. Carter.

At the same time, we are keenly aware of how much remains to be done. Literally hundreds of plant and animal species face early extinction in this country through the accelerating loss of essential habitats. Government efforts will do little to save them: over the past two years, the federal Endangered Species Program has been able to list for protection only a dozen or so out of several thousand species proposed for listing.

With this in mind, the Goodhill Foundation has now issued the Conservancy a new challenge, one that will complement and expand on its earlier commitment. It has offered a $5 million grant, which the Conservancy must match over three years with $10 million from other sources, to initiate a new, national Katharine Ordway Endangered Species Conservation Program, named for the Conservancy's late benefactor and creator of the Goodhill Foundation.

Where the Critical Areas Program focuses on protecting generally larger examples of our country's most threatened terrestrial ecosystems, the new program will aim at safeguarding smaller areas of vanishing habitats that have national priority for preservation. By protecting these areas, we hope to save communities that support scores and quite possibly hundreds of America's most endangered plant and animal species, such as the Florida manatee, the blow-out penstemon (Nebraska's only endemic plant), and Indiana and gray bats. Over the next three years, the new grant should help the Conservancy in establishing at least 75 new preserves across the country.

The unique and comprehensive scientific data bank on which the Conservancy bases its protection programs was a factor in the Goodhill Foundation's award. No other organization, private or public, has so intensively researched the actual survival status of U.S. flora and fauna. And none is so well equipped as the Conservancy, mainly through its close links with the state governments' natural heritage inventories, to set American priorities for habitat preservation.

For all of these reasons, we expect the Katharine Ordway Endangered Species Conservation Program to attract the support of many donors concerned about the rapidly diminishing biological resources of our country. We also expect the new effort, like the Critical Areas Program, to continue well beyond its initial three-year term and $15 million in pledges.

Land Guardian of The Nature Conservancy and builder of what is now the most important native American prairie preserve system, Miss Ordway provided the inspiration and the initial resources for the National Critical Areas Conservation Program. And since her death in 1979, the foundation she established has brought under protection a number of individual preserves of special significance —in Florida, Nebraska, Oregon, and elsewhere—in addition to launching the National Critical Areas and the Endangered Species Conservation Programs.

Katharine Ordway's legacy is extraordinary—a major contribution to American conservation. It challenges each of us to make a commitment as genuine and purposeful as her own.

The loss of our natural lands and waters and the genetic diversity they support is already serious and fast gaining momentum. That is the larger challenge. And it will take every one of us to meet it.

Wallace C. Dayton

Katharine Ordway

William D. Blair, Jr.

In Celebration

Bottomland hardwood forests, California's central valley grasslands, blue-bunch wheatgrass communities of the northwest, Hawaiian rain forests, southwestern riparian habitats, juniper-oak and mesquite-oak savannas of Texas. . . . These are some of the rare and endangered U.S. ecosystems that are being secured through The Nature Conservancy's National Critical Areas Conservation Program, now two years old. This issue of the *News* celebrates its successes and its future.

The program was conceived in 1980, when the trustees of the Goodhill Foundation asked the Conservancy for a list of national priorities for natural-area protection. Under the guidance of the science department, the Conservancy launched an intensive effort to gather relevant information from numerous sources—academic, governmental, and scientific. After several months of work, including field research, the Conservancy concluded not only that it was feasible to develop an objective national priority list of ecosystems in need of conservation, but also that it was essential and urgent. Summarized in the January/February 1981 *News,* preliminary results of the analysis proved so informative and disturbing that it was decided to sustain the national survey process and integrate it with results of the state heritage inventories. Together, the national survey and the state-by-state inventories have served as the basis for the Conservancy's protection planning since early 1981.

Based on the survey, the National Critical Areas Conservation Program was initiated as a major effort to identify and protect America's most threatened natural systems—lands at the top of the Conservancy's national priorities list, sites that represent the biological endowment of our country. A magnificent $10-million commitment from the Goodhill Foundation launched the nationwide program, which has rapidly grown to become the largest, most systematic private effort ever undertaken to preserve the diminishing natural diversity of our land.

Today the success and progress of the National Critical Areas Conservation Program is measured best by the extraordinary places it has already protected. Each site is a last refuge of its kind, a genetic treasury of endangered flora and fauna that could hold a key to the future for agriculture, for medicines, for industries known and yet unknown.

A second measure of the program's success to date is the unprecedented financial support it has generated. Within 18 months, a year and a half ahead of schedule, donations from other sources (corporations, foundations, and thousands of individuals) had exceeded the $20-million, two-for-one matching requirement of the Goodhill grant.

Although these accomplishments are heartening, our job is not complete. Threatened natural areas of the highest quality are still being identified; options for purchase are still being negotiated. The Conservancy's total fundraising goal for approved projects, currently near $43 million—well above the $30 million target originally promised—and expected to rise, has not yet been reached. Deadlines must be met or projects are lost. In many cases, loss means conversion of the land to other uses. The Conservancy is gratified by the program's achievements thus far but deeply concerned for many critical areas still unprotected.

For example, the program's ongoing inventory has revealed other jeopardized ecosystems: once covering 6 million acres, the blackland prairies of Texas have been reduced to a total of 200 acres, at fewer than 40 known sites. The largest tract contains no more than 40 acres. It is believed that only 20 midwestern calcareous fens remain—nutrient-rich ecosystems that support unusual associations of plants. Characterized by a number of rare and endemic species, such as Carolina grass of parnassus, southeastern sandridge longleaf pine savannas amount to only a handful. Of equal concern are inland saline wetlands, eastern serpentine barrens, and Florida sand pine scrub (the state's most endangered ecosystem).

In celebration of the National Critical Areas Conservation Program—the goals reached, the lands saved—and in dedication to the task still ahead, *The Nature Conservancy News* is pleased to present the following portfolio of areas protected thus far under the program. The Conservancy also wishes to express its gratitude to the trustees of the Goodhill Foundation and to its founder, the late Katharine Ordway. At the same time, we wish to thank all the other donors to the program—of whom only a handful could be mentioned in this issue of the *News.*

photos by Dave Boynton

Endangered Hawaiian Forest Bird Project

THE DESTRUCTION of Hawaiian rain forests between 1800 and 1930 vastly reduced critical habitat for native forest birds. Of the 58 different forest birds known to exist when Captain Cook arrived in 1778, 20 have become extinct and another 23 are currently endangered. Almost half of the birds the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lists as threatened or endangered in the United States are endemic to this single state. The Conservancy's Endangered Hawaiian Forest Bird Project was designed to assist the people and government agencies of Hawaii in establishing a network of protected native forest habitats. Among these are Maui's Kipahulu Valley and Waikamoi Preserve, Hawaii's Hakalau Preserve on the slopes of Mauna Kea Volcano, Kamakou on Molokai, and Kauai's Kaluahonu Preserve.

The fundraising goal for the program is $3 million. To date, principal grants have been made by the Atherton Family Foundation, the Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation, the Compton Foundation, Inc., the Cook Foundation, Ltd., the Charles Engelhard Foundation, the Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation, the Dillingham Corporation, and Mr. Frank Weeden.

Carolina Bays, North Carolina

POND CYPRESS, rare sarvis holly, open marshes, floating fields of flowers, dense mats of shrubs, vines, and small trees—all of these are found at "Carolina bays." Ranging in size from two acres to more than a thousand, these shallow, pond-like depressions (also known as whale wallows, loblollies, and black bottoms, owing to the mystery of their origins) once stippled the coastal plain from New Jersey to Georgia. Today these "bays" and the plant communities and wildlife they harbor are endangered by rapid conversion to agriculture and silviculture.

The initial aim of this Conservancy project is to protect representative examples of those "bays" typically found along the inner coastal plain of North Carolina and classified by soil type as clay-based. Two such properties have already been acquired: Pretty Pond and Goose Pond Bay. A second phase will protect peat-and-water-filled bays.

The project's fundraising goal is $317,000; areas targeted for protection total 745 acres. The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation has contributed generously to the Carolina Bays project.

LaVerne Smith

Susan Bournique

Nags Head Woods, North Carolina

A NATIONAL natural landmark lodged among the back barrier dunes of North Carolina's Outer Banks, this maritime forest ecosystem—where northern and southern plant species coexist, many at their geographic limits—was fostered by the convergence of warm Gulf Stream waters and cold currents from Labrador. Its spectrum of wetland communities (freshwater ponds, swamp thickets, subterranean reservoirs, brackish marsh) and its oak-hickory forest harbor a number of birds and plants endangered in the state. Conservancy-managed lands now total 610 acres.

Having reached its initial fundraising goal of $1.3 million, the Conservancy has expanded the project and reset its sights at $2.1 million. Critical support has been received from: the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, the James G. Hanes Memorial Fund/Foundation, the Kresge Foundation, and the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation.

Tim Loomis

Rivers of the Deep South

WHEN THOMAS JEFFERSON purchased the Louisiana Territory from Napoleon in 1803, more than 50 million acres of bottomland hardwood forests covered what would become the southeastern United States. Today, 3.5 million acres remain, and even this land is at risk: some 300,000 acres are being "cleared" each year. These bottomland swamps are among the nation's most significant wildlife habitats—especially for wintering migratory waterfowl, waders, and other birds. The importance of their ecological functions is incalculable, affecting terrestrial-aquatic interactions that reach out into the estuaries and the oceans beyond. Conservancy projects along the meandering courses of the Suwannee, the Apalachicola, the Choctawhatchee, the Mobile/Tensaw, the Pascagoula, and the Pearl already span 50,000 acres. Another 300,000 acres have been targeted for protection.

The Richard King Mellon Foundation has provided major funding for the program. Additional support came from the Charles Engelhard Foundation, Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, and Sonat, Inc.

Susan Bournique

Richard Dewey

Crown Butte, Montana

WHAT YOU SEE from the distance is a great dark shape—a flat-topped dome rising from the rolling plains of central Montana. But the real surprise is Crown Butte's summit, where a prairie expanse thrives—a thousand feet up. The 377-acre preserve safeguards one of the nation's few remaining foothills prairies (a rough fescue/blue-bunch wheatgrass plant community), an ecosystem type not currently protected on any federal reserve. And this is raptor country: golden eagles, prairie falcons, kestrels, great horned owls, Cooper's and marsh hawks have been counted among the species that frequent the area.

Dr. Walter C. Meuly contributed generously toward the acquisition of this preserve.

Pine Butte Swamp, Montana

THE CONSERVANCY has protected more than 9,000 acres of outstanding wildlife habitat on the Rocky Mountain front—from native shortgrass prairie to rocky ridges of limber pine and juniper to spruce-fir forests and wetlands. Noted for containing critically endangered foothills prairie, Pine Butte supports Plains grizzly bears, golden eagles, sandhill cranes, lynxes, bobcats, gray wolves, beavers, minks, moose, snowgeese, mountain goats, elk. It is a land of spring-fed creeks and glacial ponds, where a high butte overlooks a fen, the southernmost Plains wetland of its kind in the contiguous United States. The Conservancy's protection goal here along the Teton River is 40,000 acres.

The Conservancy has raised over $4 million for Pine Butte Preserve. Crucial support came from: Buckeye Trust, First Bank Systems, Inc., the Harder Foundation, the McKnight Foundation, the Richard King Mellon Foundation, the Elizabeth Elliot Foundation, M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust, and Mr. Gilman Ordway.

Bill McRae

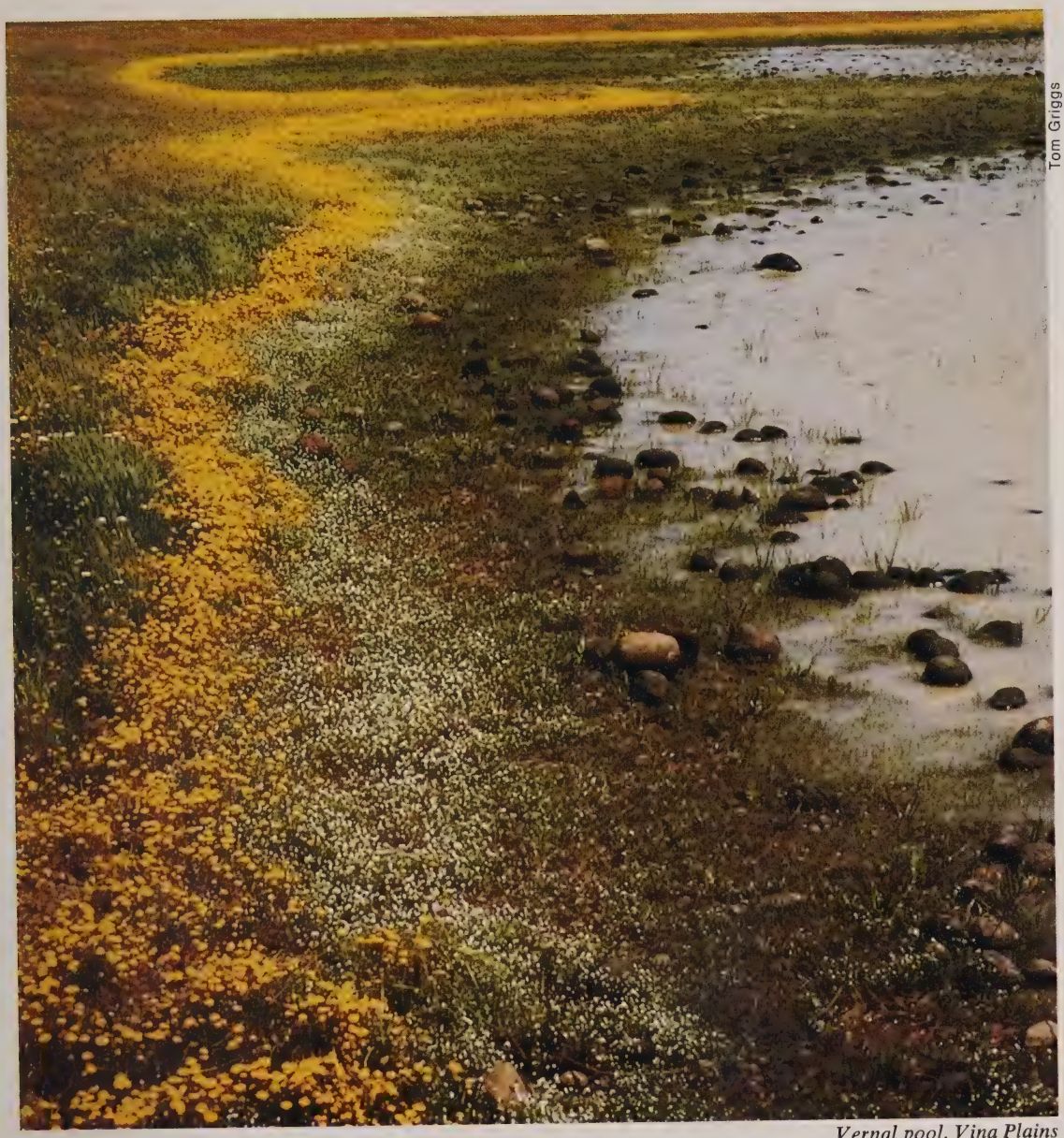
California Critical Areas Program

RIPARIAN WOODLANDS, whose deciduous trees line the state's major watercourses; vernal pools with their concentric rings of wildflowers; Central Valley native grasslands, where great herds of tule elk and pronghorn antelope ranged; coastal dunes harboring rare and endangered plants; freshwater marshes alive with migratory birds, shorebirds, and raptors: these are among California's rarest and most threatened ecosystems.

The California Critical Areas Program, a prototype of the national effort, is designed to protect representative examples of 11 imperiled natural community types. Properties safeguarded through the program to date include the Kern River Preserve, Baldwin Lake, Creighton Ranch, Ring Mountain, Jepson Prairie, Vina Plains, Paine Preserve,

Dede Gilman

Kern River Preserve



Tom Griggs

Vernal pool, Vina Plains

and Guadalupe Dunes. The total fundraising goal for the program is $15 million. We have received generous donations from: The Ahmanson Foundation, Atlantic Richfield Foundation, Bank of America, the James G. Boswell Foundation, Crocker National Bank, the William Field Charitable Fund, Getty Oil Company, Mr. William Hewlett, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Hill, the James Irvine Foundation, Natomas Company, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the San Francisco Foundation, Standard Oil of California, the Times Mirror Foundation, and the Paul L. and Phyllis Wattis Foundation.

Joel W. Rogers

Northwest Grasslands

A CENTURY AGO, Washington's 14-million-acre Columbia Basin was a mosaic of native shrubs and perennial bunchgrasses—wild buckwheat and big sage, blue-bunch wheatgrass, sand dropseed, needle-and-thread grass, Sandberg's bluegrass, Idaho fescue, snowberry, wild rose. . . . In all, 39 distinct climax plant communities characterized the region. Agriculture, grazing, and the introduction of alien grass species have drastically reduced this grassland heritage. Today 14 community types may be considered extinct in the state, and undisturbed remnants of the other types are rapidly disappearing. Working from the Washington Natural Heritage Program's recommendations, the Conservancy has already safeguarded several of the finest remaining grassland tracts: Badger Gulch, Lind Shrub-Steepe, Davis Canyon, and Seaton Canyon.

The fundraising goal for this critical area campaign stands at $300,000.

Richard Dewey

Owl Canyon, New Mexico

OWL CANYON'S Piedmont desert grasslands range undisturbed from narrow woodlands on the canyon floor across both side-slopes and up to the ridgetops. This southwestern community type is increasingly threatened by overgrazing, desertification, subdivision, and destructive recreational use. The upper third of the three-mile-long, 2,090-acre canyon—above a spectacular geologic fault—is a complex of chaparral, chaparral savannas, canyon oak woodlands, and bare rock vegetation.

The Nature Conservancy has purchased a 50 percent interest in the New Mexico preserve. The remaining interest is being donated by Dr. Elisha Atkins.

Richard Dewey

Robert W. Parvin

Honey Creek Ranch, Texas

THE LONE STAR State is a special case for American land conservation: nearly half of the nation's least-protected major ecosystems (eight of nineteen) are largely or entirely confined within its borders. This 1,825-acre property north of San Antonio embraces one of these, juniper-oak savanna. A number of species endemic to Texas, and others whose U.S. range is limited to the state, flourish near Honey Creek, which slips from its spring source in a cave just off the property—sculpting its limestone bed as it courses through shallows and riffles into still, deep pools netted with lily pads. Perennial feeder springs swell its waters in their run past dwarf palmetto, Carolina basswood (disjunct, here, from its normal range), and imposing bald cypress trees whose great gnarled knees break the surface of the stream.

A total of $3.5 million to cover project costs is being sought in the State of Texas.

Richard Dewey

Gila Riparian Project, New Mexico

A PRIME EXAMPLE of the Southwest's fragile riparian habitats, this assemblage safeguards lands along the Gila River and Mogollon Creek, its intermittent tributary. The lush gallery woodlands (vigorous sycamores and an extensive sweep of Fremont cottonwoods and Goodding willows) and surrounding desert country are a birder's dream: 265 species, or 60 percent of all avian species in the state and one-third of all in temperate North America, have been sighted here. Four animals, endangered in the state, also occur in the area: black hawk, loach minnow, spike dace, and roundtail chub. Current project acreage stands at 196.

The Gila Riparian Project is the largest campaign the Conservancy has completed in New Mexico. Some $225,000 has been raised. Valuable assistance with this effort was received from the Atlantic Richfield Foundation.

R. Dana

Weaver Dunes, Minnesota

A HIGH conservation priority of the Minnesota Natural Heritage Program, this 442-acre preserve of rolling sand dunes tops a terrace west of the Mississippi River. Blow-outs (saddle-shaped breaches in stabilized dunes) and a remarkable range of duneland successional stages, from bare sand to mature prairie to aspen and oak woods, occur here—as do several plant species uncommon in the state (rabbit's pea, cottonweed, and two species of false indigo).

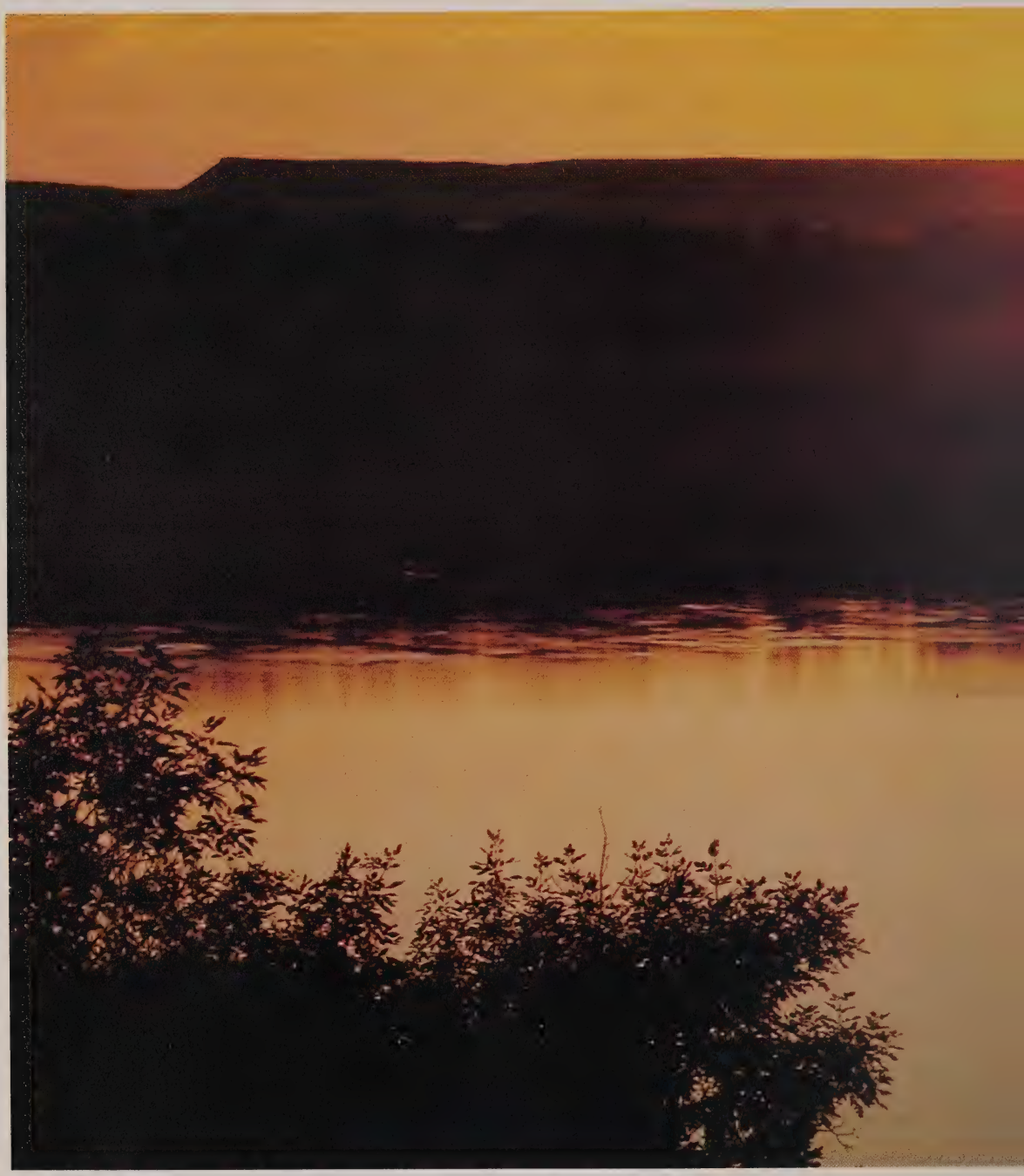
The Conservancy's Minnesota Chapter has spearheaded the effort to preserve Weaver Dunes. Its fundraising sights are currently set at $246,000. This goal will increase as additional parcels are acquired.

Loess Hills, Iowa

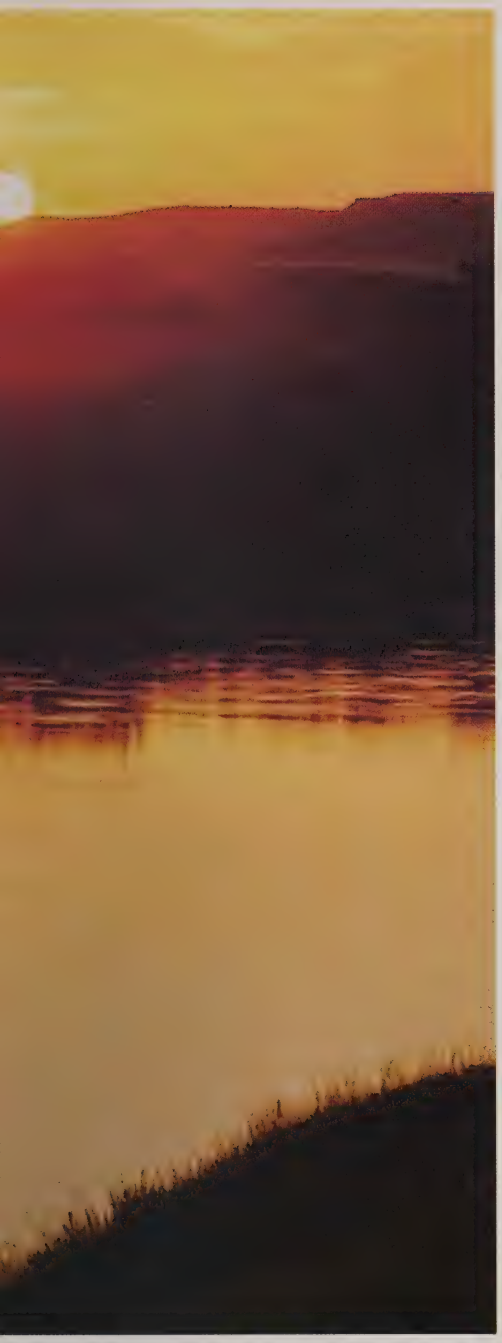
DEEP, WINDBLOWN silt and subsequent erosion have corrugated this landscape for hundreds of square miles. Geologists compare it to the loess hills of Northern China's Kansu Province—and to no place else on Earth. Immediately impressive for its topographical oddity and grand scale, this expanse just north of Sioux City is a series of narrow parallel ridges capped with fingerlike extensions of native mid-grass and tallgrass prairie. The Loess Hills region boasts the highest concentration of endangered species in Iowa. Two animals endangered in the state, the prairie rattlesnake and the grasshopper mouse, prosper here, as do rare Plains pocket mice and southern bog lemmings. More than a dozen plant species find their easternmost range limits on the new preserve's well-drained slopes, where soil conditions mimic Great Plains environments.

The Conservancy has acquired 800 acres at Loess Hills with the assistance of Plymouth County. The total fundraising goal for the project is $589,000.

Carl Kurtz



Bruce Wendt



Cross Ranch, North Dakota

WHEN Lewis and Clark landed here along the Missouri River in 1804, they called the land "magnificent": a wildlife-rich riparian woodland and extensive floodplain prairie—all of it fertile, unbroken, undisturbed. It is little changed today. The area's myriad landscapes provide habitat for rare species: pronghorn antelope, bobcat, ferruginous hawk, bald eagle, merlin, Sprague's pipit, least tern, Bell's vireo, and burrowing owls among them.

As a result of the most ambitious private conservation effort ever undertaken in North Dakota, The Nature Conservancy has preserved 5,000 acres at Cross Ranch. More than one percent of the state's citizens have contributed. Major support was provided by: the Amoco Foundation, the Burlington Northern Foundation, the Bush Foundation, the First Bank Systems Foundation, Great Plains Gasification Associates, Gulf Oil Company, Northern Border Pipeline Company, Montana-Dakota Utilities Company, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Levis II.

James Taillon

Muleshoe Ranch, Arizona

STRETCHING across the southern end of the Galiuro Mountains, the Muleshoe Ranch contains Arizona's rarest and most precious resource: clear, unpolluted water. The ranch encompasses some of the state's best examples of perennial desert streams and their surrounding riparian forests. Stands of oaks and riverine plant communities occur along the seasonal and permanent streams—which, in addition to the ranch's rolling hills, rocky canyons, and rugged cliffs, provide habitat for a rich variety of plants and wildlife. Foremost among these natives is the Gila chub, a fish recommended for federal listing as a threatened species. Other creatures of note include black hawk, beardless flycatcher, zone-tailed hawk, Thurber's tithonia, and ball moss. The ranch's semi-desert grassland is also remarkably free of invading exotic species common elsewhere in Arizona. Muleshoe is a 51,380-acre assemblage of private and public lands.

A total of $1,600,000 is required for this major conservation effort. To date, the Arizona Chapter has raised $950,000 in gifts and pledges.

Howard L. Skolnik

NEW PROJECTS

FLORIDA

Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge (Volusia County). To consolidate the eastern boundary of this 18,500-acre national wildlife refuge, the Conservancy has acquired a 3.25-acre parcel for transfer to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Established in 1964 as a migratory bird refuge, Lake Woodruff features freshwater marsh, stream, and lake habitats.

HAWAII

Kamakou Preserve (Island of Molokai). An achievement of the Conservancy's Endangered Hawaiian Forest Bird Project (see page 7), a conservation easement on 2,774 acres on Molokai safeguards several distinct biological communities: 'ohi'a forest, bogs (extremely rare on the islands), and remnants of unusual mesic forest vegetation. Bordered on the south by dry-forested slopes that drop to the ocean and on the north by the rugged Waikolu and Pelekunu Valleys, the preserve embraces a portion of Molokai's only native wet forest ecosystem, prime habitat for the endangered Molokai oloma'o or Hawaiian thrush—and possibly the endangered Molokai creeper, though it has not been sighted for a number of years. Three other native forest birds, all honey-creepers, inhabit the preserve: the 'i'iwi, the 'apapane, and the 'amakihi. A full-time Conservancy preserve manager will supervise the implementation of a five-year management plan for the easement area.

INDIANA

Merry Lea Nature Preserve—Addition—(Noble and Whitley Counties). An 80-acre gift from Lee and Mary Jane Rieth expands protection for this dedicated state nature preserve: an assemblage of marsh-edged lakes, bogs with floating mats, shrub swamps, tree swamps, lowland woods, and calcareous meadows. The property is primarily old-growth oak-hickory forest—the most mature, least disturbed stand in the vicinity. Several plants judged significant by the Indiana Natural Heritage Program occur on the preserve, as do several disappearing wetland community types. Now 591 acres in extent, it is managed by Goshen College for educational and scientific purposes.

Spicer Lake—Additions—(St. Joseph County). Envision a floating forest—a young swamp forest and a shrub swamp that is ponded all year long. With the purchase of 40 acres and the gift of two from Floyd and Wilma Ebersole, this dedicated state nature preserve (a textbook example of current lake succession) now totals 149 acres. Its native ecosystem, a eutrophying kettle-lake basin, hosts numerous bird species: herons, ducks, rails, and warblers in profusion. The properties will be transferred to the St. Joseph County Park and Recreation Department for management.

MARYLAND

Hellen Creek Hemlock Preserve—Addition—(Calvert County). Skirting Hellen Creek, a tributary of the Patuxent River, this bluff preserve protects the southernmost coastal occurrence of Canadian hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) in a disjunct stand. The recent purchase of a 27-acre tract, mostly woodland with two acres of marsh, brings Conservancy-owned acreage to 60. Mammals include red fox, river otter, striped skunk, and muskrat. Fifty-one bird species have been sighted here—the endangered bald eagle, the yellow-billed cuckoo, and the Acadian flycatcher among them. The preserve is managed by the Maryland Chapter.

MINNESOTA

Lake Alexander—Addition—(Morrison County). A series of kettle-hole lakes and marshes (some of the most complex glacial topography in the state) highlights this rolling preserve complex in central Minnesota. The recent purchases of a 60-acre tract and a conservation easement on 20 acres extend the preserve, now 904 acres all told. The properties bear hardwood forest, several small ponds, and a portion of Lake Pugh's shoreline. Beavers, white-tailed deer, and ruffed grouse inhabit the area, which is managed by the Minnesota Chapter.

NEW YORK

El Dorado Beach Preserve—Addition—(Jefferson County). It's Lake Ontario's least disturbed high sand-dune ecosystem and one of the best birding areas in the Great Lakes region—with more than 85 species (including semi-palmated plovers, sanderlings, the various "peep" sandpipers, and red phalaropes) sighted in 1981 alone. A recent 95-acre purchase encompasses a quarter-mile of

dunes, a 20-acre pond that leads into the lake through a narrow outlet, a wooded swamp, and surrounding wooded uplands. The parcel links Conservancy-owned land with state wildlife management lands. Among the area's ecologically significant features is a recently discovered stand of sand dune willows (*Salix syrticola*), a plant considered rare in the state. The 345-acre preserve, a key feeding and resting area for migrant shorebirds, is managed by a part-time Conservancy land steward and the Central New York Chapter.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Flat Creek Diabase Dike—Additions—(Lancaster County). The addition of two key parcels completes Conservancy protection of the thickest diabase dike in the Americas. (A diabase dike occurs when fine-grained igneous rock is injected while molten into a fissure in another rock body, forming a flat, vertical intrusion.) The area's soils, including the base soil of the dike itself, promote the growth of several state-protected plants—purple coneflower, burning bush, Puck's orpine, *Cyperus granitophilus* (a sedge), and *Portulaca coronata* of the purslane family. It is also the only known South Carolina location for papoose root (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*). The addition of two tracts (a 79-acre gift and a 31-acre purchase) expands the preserve, joining previously purchased lands and buffering the area's most vulnerable granite outcrop. The same southern paper products company that donated 75 acres here in 1981 made the recent gift. The South Carolina Nature Conservancy manages one portion of the 301-acre natural area; the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resource Department's Heritage Trust Program manages the remainder.

WEST VIRGINIA

Shannondale Springs (Jefferson County). Thanks to an interest-free loan from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation of Pittsburgh, the Conservancy was able to assist the state in acquiring the largest undeveloped West Virginia tract on the Shenandoah River. Just an hour and a half from Washington, D.C., the 580-acre property of woods and fields was the site of a popular 19th century spa. Its three miles of frontage on the water itself, one of the East Coast's finest rivers for smallmouth bass, offer recreationists much-needed access for boating, swimming, fishing, and hiking. The land has been transferred to the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources for management.

WISCONSIN

Brule River—Addition—(Douglas County). The gift of a conservation easement on 10 acres brings Conservancy-protected lands in the upper watershed of this wild northern Wisconsin river to 4,859 acres. Nine major biotic communities survive here in proximity. The Wisconsin Chapter has gained easements on 96 percent of its nine-mile-long project area—the wildest, most ecologically diverse stretch in the river's run north to Lake Superior.

Chiwaukee Prairie—Additions—(Kenosha County). The acquisition of six additional lots totaling two acres brings Conservancy holdings on this outstanding stretch of wet-mesic prairie to just over 131 acres. A national natural landmark and a state scientific area, Chiwaukee harbors more than 400 native plant species. The preserve, which embraces a series of ridges and swales on the Lake Michigan coast, is currently managed by the University of Wisconsin, Parkside, with assistance from the Conservancy's Wisconsin Chapter and the state's Scientific Areas Program.

Thousand's Rock Prairie II (Iowa County). Saved: a xeric prairie patch on a hilltop 30 miles southwest of Madison. The purchase of five acres in unglaciated southwestern Wisconsin ensures protection for a host of dry-prairie plant species, including little bluestem, side-oats grama, northern dropseed, lead plant, heath aster, yellow Indian paintbrush, stiff sunflower, and two species of blazing stars. The calcareous nature of the bedrock here accounts for the presence of limestone-loving species. Thousand's Rock Prairie I, acquired in 1964, lies a mile away. Both sites are managed by the Wisconsin Chapter.

Derive Real Income from a Gift of Real Estate

Do you own land which now provides little or no income? The Nature Conservancy can help you set up a charitable arrangement whereby:

- The land will be sold and proceeds reinvested.
- You will receive income for the rest of your lifetime from the full fair market value of the property. (Neither you nor the trust will pay capital gains tax).
- You will receive a large income tax deduction.
- You will avoid estate tax on the property.

For further information, please contact: Alice A. Pinsley, Director of Capital and Planned Giving, The Nature Conservancy, 294 Washington Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02108; (617) 542-1908.

Thomas L. McCall

Former Oregon Governor Tom McCall, a dedicated environmentalist and a member of the Conservancy's Board of Governors for six years, died at the age of 69 on January 8, 1983.

Throughout his career, first as a journalist, then as a politician, McCall sought to protect Oregon's natural lands and resources. As a broadcast commentator he stressed the need for pollution clean-up; and during his two-term tenure as governor, McCall encouraged a wide array of environmental legislation. He established Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality, pushed passage of the nation's first "bottle bill" (a mandatory beverage container refund law), urged the Oregon legislature to pass comprehensive environmental protection laws, and inaugurated the first system of statewide land-use planning.

Tom McCall won innumerable awards for his state and national leadership on environmental issues. While still a journalist, he was nationally cited for the scripts of two documentary films, "Pollution in Paradise" and "Crisis in the Klamath Basin." Later awards include the National Wildlife Federation's "Conservationist of the Year Award," "Distinguished Achievement Award" from the Sierra Club, and "Award of Honor" from the National Resources Council of America.

McCall also served as Vice Chairman for The Nature Conservancy's Board of Governors from 1977 to 1979. In 1981, the Conservancy dedicated an Oregon preserve in his honor: the Governor Tom McCall Preserve at Rowena Dell Plateau.

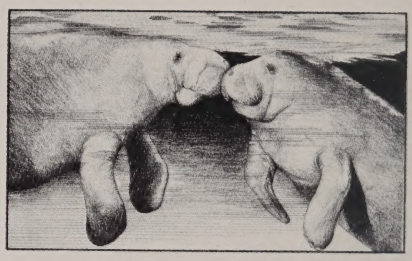
IT'S TUCSON IN '83

Ringed by cool, massive mountains beneath a constant desert sun, Tucson, Arizona, will be the site of The Nature Conservancy's 1983 Annual Meeting and Conference, to be held on October 21 and 22.

A sunrise tour of the renowned Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum will officially open the conference on Friday, October 21. Other events of the weekend include seminars on Conservancy programs, President Bill Blair's report to the members on recent Conservancy land-protection triumphs, and the Annual Awards Banquet.

A variety of bus trips to nearby preserves—as well as hikes to more remote areas—will be offered before and after the conference.

To obtain a complete packet of information and registration materials for the Conservancy's 1983 Annual Meeting and Conference (which will be mailed this coming May), please write to the Annual Meeting Coordinator, The Nature Conservancy, 1800 N. Kent Street, Arlington, Virginia 22209.



HELP THE MANATEE

In King's Bay, part of Florida's Crystal River, the number of endangered West Indian manatees is actually increasing. The Conservancy purchased 14 of the Bay's pristine islands, in December 1982, for inclusion in the Crystal River Manatee Sanctuary —the largest natural manatee refuge in the nation.

More than 4,000 individuals and corporations have contributed to the sanctuary's $425,000 fundraising goal. Nevertheless, to meet the December deadline date to exercise its option, the Conservancy's Florida Chapter had to secure a $115,000 emergency loan. The Florida Power and Light Company has donated a limited edition of manatee prints to the Conservancy, to help raise funds to repay the loan. Donors of $50 or more to the Crystal River Manatee Sanctuary will receive a set of four assorted prints (one appears above), each signed and numbered.

Laura Sartucci, a Miami illustrator and designer of wildlife and scientific subjects, created the portfolio of four life-like drawings for the 11-by-14-inch prints. The entire edition of Ms. Sartucci's prints contains only 500 sets; each is available solely to supporters of the Crystal River Manatee Sanctuary. Please make your tax-deductible donation ($50 or more) payable to The Nature Conservancy and send it to: The Nature Conservancy, Manatee Sanctuary Prints, 1331 Palmetto Avenue, Suite 205, Winter Park, Florida 32790.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

An individual becomes a Life Member of The Nature Conservancy upon contribution of $1,000 for membership dues or for the Land Preservation Fund, Guarantee & Income Fund, or a State Land Preservation Fund.

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A corporation becomes a Corporate Associate of The Nature Conservancy upon contributing between $1,000 and $10,000 annually to the operations of the organization.

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Illinois

Beneficial Corporation
Delaware

Carolina Power & Light
North Carolina

Cross & Trecker Foundation
Michigan

The First Boston Corporation
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